Embassy of the United States of America



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United States Embassy Skopje Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Demonstrations in Skopje and Throughout Macedonia on March 10, 2017

The U.S. Embassy in Skopje informs U.S. citizens that a demonstration is expected to take place in front of the Government building on Ilindenska Blvd. at 5:00 p.m. The group "United for Macedonia" will gather to show their support for the "unitary character of the country." The U.S. Embassy anticipates there will be approximately 6,000 people present.

Please be advised that similar demonstrations are planned by the same group at 5:00p.m. in the following cities throughout the country: Bitola, Ohrid, Veles, Kocani, Kavadarci, Negotino, Radovis, Berovo, Krusevo, Makedonska Kamenica, Demir Hisar, Novo Selo, Delcevo, Prilep, Kumanovo, Stip, Kicevo, Strumica, Sveti Nikole, Gevgelija, Kriva Palanka, Probistip, Valandovo, Vinica and Resen.

It is likely that similar demonstrations by this group will also occur on Saturday and Sunday at 5:00 p.m. If the security situation deteriorates, or if violence is expected, we will inform U.S. citizens accordingly.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and <u>Macedonia Country Specific Information</u>.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Macedonia, located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje, at tel: (02) 310-2000 within Macedonia, or (+389) (2) 310-2000 internationally,

Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (02) 310-2000.

• Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).